(b) whether it has also affected industrial growth by 1.3 per cent compared to last year; and

(c) what steps Government has taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In terms of Index of Industrial Production at 2-digit level compiled by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the production of only two industrial groups, namely, Metal Products & Parts (with a weightage of 2.81%) and Paper & Paper Products (with a weightage of 2.65%) registered negative growth rates of -1.5% and -0.2% respectively during April—July 2007 implying that their production decreased as compared to corresponding period of the previous year. The overall Index of Industrial Production, however, recorded a growth of 9.6 per cent in April—July 2007 as compared to 11.1 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Performance of individual industries in a market driven economy, apart from exchange rate movement, depends on a number of factors, such as demand and supply conditions, relative prices of inputs, competition and other macroeconomic factors. Besides, demand conditions in major importing countries and trade environment also impact the performance of industries in which exports constitute a significant proportion of production.

(c) Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth. This includes, *inter-alia,* delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc.

Training of pilots

877. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the perspective scenario of training of our pilots in Air Force to update their professional efficiency in view of the rapidly evolving scientific and technical environment;

(b) what is the percentage of Air Force Budget which is specially allocated to training-initial and advanced, to man our fast changing acquisition of sophisticated aircrafts from time to time; and

(c) whether this component is part of the comprehensive modernization programmes launched or whether this equips our pilots professionally to successfully handle the flying techniques to avoid any accidental failure of planes, as of late, these accidents are on the increase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The flying training system of the pilots of Indian Air Force (IAF) is constantly reviewed and up-dated to enable them to equip with rapidly evolving scientific and technical environment. Effort is always made to keep them at par with the world's best available training facilities.

Training programmes providing a focused attention on flight safety and other operational requirements are an integral part of the modernization programme of the IAF.

Sufficient funds are allocated to training from the Air Force Budget which is subject to a iew each financial year.